

Beacon

Sunday 20th August –
10th after Trinity



www.beaconbenefice.org.uk

Light

Welcome

Welcome to our churches today, wherever you are from! Our Gospel reading reminds us that God is constantly entering new territory and breaking boundaries. God's work, and the work of the Church, is to welcome all. It comes down to remembering that we are all God's children, that God's love is unconditional, and that God's mercy extends beyond all boundaries.

Readings: Isaiah 56. 1,6-8, or Romans 11.1-2a,29-32, Matthew 15 10-28

MABEL (Mike's Adventures in BibleLand) – Becoming Jewish

Onto the second book of the Bible – Exodus. And what a contrast with Genesis! There we had loads of stories all collected together; here we have one clear story. And unlike the plethora of characters we found in Genesis, here there's one – Moses. Well alright, there are two because as with Genesis, the real star is God. But if you go by the number of times they're mentioned, Moses comes a pretty close second!

This is THE foundational story of the Jewish people. This is how a bunch of runaway slaves truly became God's people, became Jews. So Moses, on the run for killing someone, reluctant to get involved at all, becomes THE man for the Jewish people. God does choose the oddest of people when you come to think of it – it gives us all hope doesn't it?

So here are the plagues of Egypt, the Passover, the crossing of the Red Sea (or Reed Sea), the arrival at Mount Sinai, the giving of the Ten Commandments, the golden calf, the second giving of the Ten Commandments(!) and an awful lot of rules for how to live as Jews. Here is probably the oldest part of the bible, the songs of Moses and Miriam after they escape the Egyptians at the Red Sea. Here also is the faithfulness of God towards a people who are already pretty shaky in their faith. As I said earlier, it gives us all hope, doesn't it?

Next week – a diversion – which Bible?

Beacon People

Our prayers are asked for all who are sick, especially **Betty Barney, Rita Bishop, Helen Briggs, Glynnis Mayes, Laurie Smith, Will Tarbuck and Peggy Ward**. We also pray for all whose prayer requests are on our prayer boards.

Pray also for all the recently departed. Remember also their families and friends and those whose anniversaries of death fall at this time.

News of a Festival for all

Gloucester Diocese is working with the Barnwood Trust, Gloucestershire African Community Foundation and Gloucester Cathedral to organise a **Festival for all**. The purpose is to celebrate inclusive community and build and strengthen community relationships and networks.

Many community and statutory organisations have already signed up to participate, such as 2gether NHS Trust, the Police, Active Impact, Artshape, The Nelson Trust, the Fire Service, World Jungle, Inclusion Gloucestershire, Churches Together, the Alzheimers Society and many more. To explain a bit more about the Festival for all, here is an outline of what we are planning –

Thursday 17 May – Launch in the Cathedral, open to all. Bishop Rachel will be a keynote speaker, followed by music, street food, dancing and much more in the grounds of the Cathedral.

Friday 18 May – Professional networking day for organisations in the Cathedral / keynote speakers, workshops and breakout groups.

Saturday 19th May – Saturday 16th June – A month of community events across the diocese, promoted under the umbrella of Festival for all, to promote unity and local pride. These can be from a small local picnic, to a large music festival! They can be events already planned, or organised especially for the Festival for all month. We are hoping that as many worshipping communities as possible will be involved by attending what they can at the Cathedral and by either planning a community event, or branding something already taking place.



St Mary's Flower-burst. Aspects of Painswick Starts this Thursday 24 August till Bank Holiday Monday August 28 - part of the Painswick Arts Festival, staged by St Mary's Flower Guild, and portraying village activities through floral art. Donations will be for Longfield and St Mary's Church. (We still need stewards for 1 ½ hour sessions from 12-4 Thurs, and 10-4 Friday-Monday, preferably to be on duty two at a time. Sign up on the sheet in Church.)



Don't forget GHCT's sponsored Ride + Stride event on **September 9-cycle or walk round local churches to raise money for Historic Churches.**Contact Glenn if you'd like to know more about taking part, to order a banner advertising the event or to update the information for your church: rideandstride@ghct.org.uk or call 01452 538271. Full details can be found at www.ghct.org.uk/ride-and-stride



Autumn courses - Helping with Worship

5 sessions on Tuesday afternoons and (mostly) Wednesday evenings starting on 12th September in Pitchcombe (afternoons) and Sheepscombe (evenings). To include: leading intercessions , setting up or distributing Communion, organising worship, leading worship. Just choose the sessions covering areas where you may feel that, with some guidance, you might become involved.

More info from revmike.holloway@gmail.com .



On the **9th September at 3.30pm in Malmesbury Abbey**, the Mariposa Trust is holding one of its Saying Goodbye services. The service is for anyone who has either personally lost a baby at any stage of pregnancy, at birth or in early years, or who has been affected by a family members or friends loss. Whether the loss was recent or 80 years ago, everyone is welcome to attend. We have also extended the services, and gladly welcome anyone who is grieving the fact that they haven't had children. To read more on the charity, please see the Saying Goodbye website, www.sayinggoodbye.org.

